

Message Text

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71/44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 DPW-01 AID-20 SR-02 ORM-03 NIC-01 RSR-01 /146 W
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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 363

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 6673

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (T O T E X T S)

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SITREP MR I, APRIL 18, 1973

FOL SENT ACTION SAIGON FM DANANG AND RPTD FOR YOUR INFO QTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L DANANG 417

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT VS

SUBJ: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SITREP MR I, X PLUS 80, APRIL 18, 1973

1. MILITARY ACTIVITY:

THE LEVEL OF COMBAT IN MR I WAS RELATIVELY LIGHT WITH ONE GROUND ATTACK AND 21 ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF' S). THE 1 ST DIVISION BORE THE BRUNT OF WHAT FIGHTING THERE WAS WITH ONE GROUND ATTACK, A SHARP ENGAGEMENT NEAR THE AN LOC BRIDGE NORTHWEST OF HUE (SEE DANANG 410) AND 12 ABF' S OF 384 ROUNDS OF MORTAR FIRE. I CORPS REPORTS THAT IT HAS ORDERED 100 PERCENT ALERT NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS FOR THE NIGHT OF APRIL 18/19. TOTAL CASUALTIES FOR THE PERIOD WERE: FRIENDLY FIVE KIA AND 43 WIA; ENEMY 16 KIA. I CORPS ALSO REPORTED A TOTAL OF 80 HOI CHANH, SIX MILITARY AND 74 CIVILIANS, FROM THE BATANGAN PENINSULA EAST OF QUANG NGAI FROM APRIL 14-17. THESE RESULTED FROM A SPECIAL CAMPAIGN INVOLVING GVN POLWAR AND INTELLI-
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GENCE SERVICES WHICH VISITED THE AREA WITH DOSSIERS ON KNOWN AND SUSPECTED VC AND VCI. THE BASIC THEME OF THE CAMPAIGN: " THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO RALLY, OR ELSE"(THE " OR ELSE" WAS NOT SPECIFIED). ALL THE RALLIERS WERE FROM ONE VILLAGE; THERE ARE REPORTEDLY ANOTHER 20-30 HOI CHANH WAITING TO RALLY FROM A NEARBY VILLAGE.

2. ICCS:

A. THE ICCS INVESTIGATORY PANEL IN REGION I CONTINUED TO TAKE TESTIMONY REGARDING THE INCIDENT OF THE SHOOTING DOWN OF TWO HELICOPTERS APRIL 7. ON APRIL 16, THEY INTERROGATED THE PILOT OF HELICOPTER #115 FOR FIPL HOURS AND ON APRIL 17, THE FIRST OFFICER AND CREW CHIEF WERE BEFORE THE PANEL. THE TESTIMONY OF THE CREW TENDED TO LEND CREDENCE TO THE IDEA THAT THE HELICOPTERS WERE INDEED OFF COURSE, FOLLOWING " ROAD 14" RATHER THAN ROUTE 9. THE INVESTIGATION IS CONTINUING (SEE SEPTELS).

B. POLOFF QUANG NAM REPORTS THAT THE SUB- REGION ICCS TEAM IN HOI AN HAS COMPLETED ITS FIRST INVESTIGATION. ON APRIL 16 THE CHIP REPRESENTATIVES UNANIMOUSLY AGREED THAT ON MARCH 23 AN EXPLOSION DESTROYED PART OF THE GIAO THUY BRIDGE BETWEEN DAI LOC AND DUY XUYEN DISTRICTS ABOUT 21 KILOMETERS WEST OF HOI AN, BUT THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE THE SOURCE OR MANNER OF THE EXPLOSION OR WHO DID IT. POLOFF COMMENT: THE LONG DELY BEFORE THE SAIGON ICCS AUTHORIZED THE INVESTIGATION PRECLUDED THE POSSIBILITY OF SECURING ADEQUATE EVIDENCE AND MAKING FIRM CONCLUSIONS AS TO ANY VIOLATION OF THE CEASEFIRE. END COMMENT.

3. REFUGEES AND RESETTLEMENT:

A. POLOFF QUANG NAM REPORTS THAT FROM MARCH 20 TO APRIL 4 A CORDON- AND- SWEEP TYPE OPERATION WAS CONDUCTED IN WESTERN DIEN BAN DISTRICT ABOUT 18 KILOMETERS WEST NORTHWEST OF HOI AN IN WHICH 238 FAMILIES WITH 895 PERSONS WERE GATHERED UP FROM LONG CONTESTED OR PREDOMINANTLY PRG CONTROLLED AREAS WHERE THEY WERE LIVING AND FORCED TO RESETTLE IN GVN CONTROLLED AREAS. (REF SEPTEL).

B. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION MADE AVIALABLE TO POLOFF QUANG NAM, A REPORTER FROM THE NEWSPAPER " DONG PHUONG" IS PREPARING AN EXPOSE OF MALFEASANCE IN RTV FUND ADMINISTRATION IN QUANG NAM, PARTICULARLY LOCAL VILLAGE AUTHORITIES SHAKING DOWN RECIPIENTS. THE BASIC FACTS HAVE BEEN VERIFIED BY PROVINCE OFFICIALS.
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RM COMMUNIST ACTIVITY:

POLOFF QUANG NAM REPORTS THAT ACCORDING TO A CAPTURED D
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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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